

Come Join Us !!!! Spay Day USA February 29, 2000

On Tuesday, February 29, 2000, the Seattle Animal Shelter and Municipal Spay and Neuter Clinic is celebrating SPAY DAY USA. On this day only, all animals adopted will receive a free spay or neuter (which represents a savings of \$25-\$50!) Additionally, anyone visiting the Seattle Animal Shelter on this day is entitled to receive a certificate valid for one free spay or neuter at our clinic. This program is supported by donations to the Clinic's Pet Population Control Fund. The certificates are intended for those persons who would not otherwise be able to afford the cost of spaying or neutering, but we won't turn anyone away. For more information, please call (206) 386-4254 ext. 2.

Companion Animal Overpopulation: Myth vs. Fact

Every year millions of animals are killed in our shelters because there are not enough good homes for them. This tragedy is preventable. By spaying or neutering cats and dogs we can humanely end the companion animal overpopulation crisis.

MYTH: Spaying/neutering is painful.

FACT: Veterinarians perform spay and neuter surgeries under a general anesthetic. Animals usually return to normal activity within 24 to 72 hours. Any discomfort experienced is minimal and well outweighs the suffering and death caused by uncurbed breeding. Altering animals also eliminates the risk of certain diseases, such as mammary and testicular cancer. And keep in mind that unaltered male animals are more likely to be killed by cars as a result of straying from home.

MYTH: Animals must be at least six months old before they can be spayed or neutered.

FACT: Although animals have traditionally been altered at six months, veterinarians are now practicing early spay/neuter surgery, which can be performed on animals as young as eight weeks. Doctors practicing the technique report that the surgery is significantly easier and quicker to perform. Furthermore, guardians of animals altered younger report fewer medical

problems than those of conventionally altered animals. Finally, the spay/neuter procedure, prior to adopting out animals from shelter, is the best way to ensure that unwanted births do not occur.

MYTH: Animals, dogs in particular, are less protective after sterilization and show other negative behavioral changes.

FACT: Any changes brought about by spaying/neutering are generally positive. Neutered male cats usually stop territorial spraying. Neutered dogs and cats fight less and are less likely to become lost while straying from home in search of a mate. Spayed animals do not go into heat or need to be confined indoors to avoid pregnancy. All altered animals remain protective and loyal to their guardians.

MYTH: Males don't give birth so we don't need to neuter them.

FACT: The old saying "it takes two to tango" is as true for animals as it is for humans. And while a female dog or cat can only have one litter at a time, male animals can impregnate many females each day.

MYTH: Spaying/neutering is expensive.

FACT: While prices vary considerably, the Seattle Animal Shelter has a low cost municipal spay and neuter clinic. It's a real bargain, especially when you consider the cost of raising a litter of puppies or kittens. Spaying or neutering also saves taxpayer dollars.

On average, it costs \$100 to capture, house, feed and eventually euthanize an unwanted homeless

animal – a cost that ultimately comes out of all our pockets.



After wrapping a shoot at the Three Dog Bakery, Evening Magazine host John Curley takes five with "Mr. Magoo" and foster parent, Gail Schmitz.



Letter from the Top Dog

by Donald E. Jordan

A FABULOUS END TO THE MILLENNIUM

Animal Shelter - 1999 was yet another fabulous year for the staff, volunteers and animals at the Seattle Animal Shelter. The Animal Shelter reported an impressive 49 percent increase in the number of animals adopted, compared to 1998. Euthanasias were down 18 percent from 1998, while six percent more animals were returned to their owners in 1999.

These statistics are impressive and represent the new mission and direction of Seattle Animal Control. The new millennium is about promoting animals as an integral part of the family unit, reuniting lost pets with their owners, and, through an aggressive spaying and neutering program, reducing the number of animals that are needlessly euthanized each year. The shelter is also working towards implementing a "no kill" philosophy in which no healthy, adoptable animals are euthanized.

Volunteers - The Seattle Animal Shelter's Volunteer Program grew to an all time high of 375 dedicated volunteers and foster care parents. The fabulous increase in adoptions and reductions in euthanasia is directly attributed to these dedicated folks who have helped so

much in saving the lives of animals. And the City Council noticed it! On November 8, 1999, the full Seattle City Council passed a resolution dedicating November 7 - 13, 1999, Seattle Animal Shelter Appreciation Week. This resolution was a way of recognizing the many contributions of our volunteers who give their time to help the Seattle Animal Shelter serve and protect both animals and people, making Seattle a better place for all residents. Our volunteers are indispensable!

Community Support - Last year was record breaking in terms of the number of donations received at the shelter. In 1999, the community donated over \$50,000 towards improving animal welfare, reducing pet overpopulation and improving off-leash areas. One of the more popular animal welfare funds, the Help The Animals Fund, provides funding for the shelter's foster care program. These donations have helped rehabilitate countless sick and injured animals, animals that may have otherwise been euthanized.

YEAR AT A GLANCE Seattle Animal Control - 1999 Shelter Statistics

	1998	1999	Difference	% Difference
Adoptions	1,681	2,510	+829	+ 49%
Euthanasia	2,516	2,068	-448	- 18%
Return To Owners	1,061	1,127	+66	+ 6%
Donations	\$17,728	\$52,128	+\$34,400	+194%

Doggy Diaries A note from another one of our satisfied customers, Barkley (formerly known as Jetta), writes staff from his new home!

Dear Anne:

We thought we'd write to tell you how things are going.

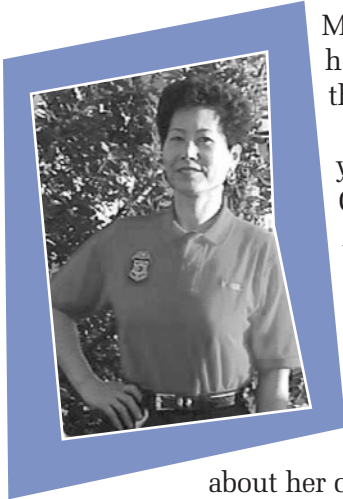
Life is beautiful. Now that I have figured out what attention I can get from people, I have turned into a lover boy. I just love to nuzzle, cuddle, snuggle and rest on anyone's lap. Jody and Greg have renamed me Barkley (I didn't respond to Jetta, anyway), bet you can guess why. I am so happy I just love to run and bark! I am 100% housebroken, pretty good on a leash, crate trained, good in the car, know how to sit and shake, love to play frisbee and catch balls. Greg and Jody have taken me on lots of mountain hikes and to the beach on weekends. I have a new passion: ROCKS! I just love to play with rocks; big rocks, little rocks, any rocks. Then, I bring them in the house and roll them down 2 flights of stairs and watch them crash into the wall. It is much fun. People still love my trick of ringing my bell to go outside. I am soooo smart!



LOVE, BARKLEY

Employee of the Quarter

4th Quarter 1999 - Mei-Fu Hong



Mei Fu Hong was nominated by her peers as our Employee of the Quarter!

She started working here 16 years ago as an Animal Control Officer I for the Animal Care section. Her peers view her as extremely hard working, and she shows a genuine, sincere interest in helping animals. It's well known around the shelter that Mei-Fu really cares

about her customers, how the customer feels about the adoption process, and follows up with them to insure they're satisfied with their pet. We'd like to share one special story with you...

A customer came in one day hoping to adopt a pet dog for a companion. The gentleman, unfortunately, only had a single check with him but it was made out to the wrong shelter. Without hesitation, Mei Fu immediately insisted on paying the fees for him — she could see how much the adoption meant to this man. The customer was overjoyed and so happy, and he did come back a few days later to repay her. This isn't the first time Mei Fu has helped customers in this way, and some times they haven't always repayed her. Her answer to this is, "I help people because I see they need it at the time. I don't worry about getting paid back." With this kind of attitude, you can see why she is such a valued part of Seattle Animal Control and was nominated for Employee of the Quarter!

Volunteer Makes a Connection/Adoption

by Tracy Klinkroth, Volunteer Team Leader

I helped make a connection/adoption at the shelter the other day. I stopped by to pick up a banner for Hombre, my sort-of-foster dog, (so he can wear it when I take him to Greenlake in the mornings)...and this older man was there who had stopped by the shelter both on Saturday and Sunday (we had Hombre there and thought he might have liked him), but instead, he kind of liked "Gohan"...the golden/black lab mix...but he didn't think Gohan liked him because he'd either act disinterested or would back away from the cage, so I suggested we take him out to the canine corral area. We spent about 20-30 minutes with Gohan outside and off-leash...and what a sweetie! (Although he did bark a lot when people would walk by, but his tail is wagging the whole time).

So the man, whose wife had died a couple of years ago, said, "Would you like to come home with me? We could go to the beach and go for walks and just do everything together." Gohan kissed him a couple of times on the face...it was so sweet, and that was it! He adopted him.

He was leaving the shelter when I first ran into him and I really don't think he would have taken the time to take Gohan outside. Had I not been there, Gohan might have missed an opportunity for a wonderful home! Gohan needed this man as much as this man needed Gohan."



From the Field

by Al Rechtermann

With the new millennium upon us, we are hoping to be as progressive in our field operations as we have with animal shelter and volunteer programs. All of the officers are now sporting new, colorful uniforms, and we will soon be replacing our old vehicles—also with new, colorful ones. The trucks will be (maroonish) red to match our uniforms. Eventually, these vehicles will be equipped with wireless laptop computers, giving officers remote access to our data base, thereby enabling them to search for information about animals and owners. This project has been several years in the works.

In addition to the new "look" of field operations, we are developing a business plan focusing on new and innovative ways to respond to and handle complaints. Maximizing efficiency and improving customer service will be two of the major areas of focus for us in the year 2000. It will be an interesting year...you know that old saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks." Well, we intend to try!

Until next edition, take care and be a responsible pet owner! Woof!





Matilda's Mailbag

Hi! Let me introduce myself. My name is "Matilda" ("Tilly" for short), and I am the new public relations spokesperson for the Seattle Animal Shelter. I was found by Officer Norvell several weeks ago alone on the streets. He scooped me up in his arms and brought me to the shelter where they have kept me warm and safe. I have good food to eat and many wonderful volunteers that hug and play with me! I don't have to sleep there though. I have my own special Human who takes me home every night to sleep. (I am so tired by the end of the day!)

I have made it my personal mission to educate children (and older humans too) on what we animals need to be safe and social. I am told that I will even get to go to schools soon! I plan to do everything I can to help other dogs and cats that are still out there alone and scared like I was. I have even seen some animals who live on chains outside all the time (can

you imagine?). We all need families that love us and keep us inside when we are not out walking and playing with them.

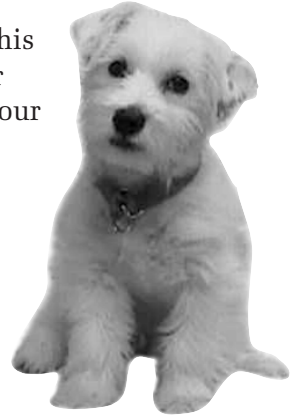
I will also be involved in a new volunteer program where I get to go to visit Seniors who cannot have pets where they live now. I love visiting them because they all pet me so gently and tell me stories about the pets they used to have. They smile more when I sit with them too!

I will also have a column in this Howler newsletter. I get to hear from some of you and answer your questions on anything animal related. I can give you all kinds of information! Just ask me! You can write me at:

Matilda's Mailbag

c/o Seattle Animal Shelter
2061 15th AV W
Seattle, WA 98119-2798

or e-mail me at: ask.tilly@ci.seattle.wa.us



The Angels Came on Christmas Eve

by Christine Titus, Volunteer Co-coordinator

The call came in to Seattle Animal Shelter's Dispatch office, "there's a cat under a truck out here." A field officer (a hero in disguise) was dispatched to the scene to investigate. The cat was retrieved from under the truck. Apparently she had dragged herself there and was unable to walk. She was taken to the Vet by the field officer immediately and it was determined that she had suffered a "head trauma." She was starving and dehydrated when she arrived on Christmas Eve at the shelter.

Everyone noted right away what a sweet little cat she was. The kennel staff said, "She kneads her paws like she is making biscuits." So we named her "Biscuit." Then we began to fatten her up and give her the cage rest she needed. She would eat two cans of food a day. After resting for a week, we took Biscuit to the Vet again for another evaluation. By that time she weighed in at a whopping 5 lbs. She was still unable to walk. So out to foster care she went.

A week in foster care didn't produce much improvement, so a small prayer was said one night. The next day when we checked in on Biscuit, she rose on all four feet and began to walk slowly to the front of her cage! WOW! Each day she improved. She began to walk out of her cage and began stretching like a normal cat. Soon she was circling the feet of her caretakers and enjoying her daily cat massage. She is now let out of her cage 3 times a day for hugs and love and more massage.

She has won the hearts of all of her foster people that total around 10. Everyone is cheering her on daily and praising her for her improvements. Throughout this ordeal, Biscuit has remained a sweet little cat. that she is throughout this ordeal.

Biscuit must have the very best home because she deserves it. She will require a rug to scratch so that she can continue to "make biscuits."



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Volunteers raised over \$1,000 at this year's SANTA CLAWS. Three local professional photographers, Rebecca Douglas, Phil H. Webber and Julia Fiset, donated their time taking pictures of people's dogs, cats and bunnies with Santa Claws Dec. 4, 5 and 11, 1999. Film and development were generously donated by Bartell Drugs.

Bell Ringing at IKEA An Overwhelming Success!

Maybe some of you saw our smiling volunteers at IKEA in December, ringing jingle bells and introducing the public to some very adorable pooches. Our friends at IKEA helped us raise over \$3,000 for the Help the Animals Fund by allowing the shelter to set up a donation kettle and information booth at their store in Renton. All the volunteers who participated said what a great time they had meeting the public, snuggling with the various puppies that "worked" the event, and spreading the word about the wonderful animals available at the shelter. In fact, two long-term shelter "guests" were adopted by loving humans who saw their photos on the adoption board at IKEA. Congratulations Logger and Major!! We hope you will hear our jingle bells at IKEA and several other locations across Puget Sound next holiday season.

Santa Claws Visits SAS

December proved to be a busy month at the shelter with yet another successful fundraiser, "Pet Pictures with Santa Claws." Over 100 proud parents brought their dogs, cats and rabbits to the shelter and Three Dog Bakery to have their pictures taken with Santa. Like many children, some pets didn't quite know what to make of the jolly man with the big white beard and decided to really

make our photographers work up a sweat in order to capture the perfect picture. Attempting to get a chocolate lab to wear reindeer antlers or an overly excited Jack Russell terrier to don a Santa hat added to the fun of the event and put us all in the holiday spirit. We are forever grateful to Rebecca Douglas, Phil H. Webber and Julia Fiset for volunteering their time and photographic expertise, which made this first annual event such a success. We'd also like to thank all of the proud parents who brought their pets to visit with Santa. It was great to see several shelter alumni as well as new friends. So be sure to look for news about Santa Claws 2000 in the Summer and Fall issues of the Howler.



Volunteer, Nate Findlay assists photographer at Santa Claws '99

Volunteer, Lars Pardo plays Santa!

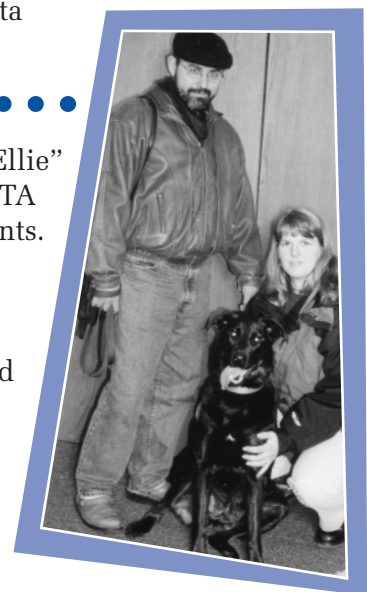
Volunteer, Alan Ward welcomes people & pets to Santa Claws '99

Student Raises Money for Vet Fund!

Alex Topalian, left, 12 years old and a 7th grader of St. John's School, raised \$125 for the Help the Animals Fund by selling hot cider in his neighborhood at Christmas.



Alumna shelter dog, "Ellie" (right-center) came to SANTA CLAWS with her new parents. Ellie was a stray found by shelter officers a year ago...half of her hair was missing due to allergies and malnourishment. She blossomed in a foster home, was adopted, and is now happy and healthy and home for good!



A great big thank you goes out to the following businesses for all your help during the holiday season.

Special thanks - IKEA, Costco, Bartell Drugs, Avalon Glassworks

Seattle Animal Shelter's 1st Annual Furry 5K Fun-Run and One-Mile Walk

Join us on Sunday, June 11th at 9:00 a.m. at Seward Park for the 1st annual Furry 5K fun-run and one-mile walk! We are very pleased to have Mike Gastineau, the Gas Man, of Sports Radio KJR AM 950 fame emceeding the event. The Furry 5K is one of the few races in the Puget Sound area that encourages individuals and families to run with their dogs.

However, this race is not only for dog lovers—it's for anyone who loves animals. All proceeds will benefit the shelter's Help the Animals Fund. This independent fun covers veterinary expenses for the sick, injured and abused shelter animals, giving many the chance to recuperate and be adopted into loving new homes. So even if you don't have a pooch, you can still run to show your support for this great cause! Pick up a registration form at a local running store (Super Jock & Jill, Sound Sports, Foot Zone or Fast Lady Sports) or at the SAS after May 14, 2000. Also, you can keep updated on the Furry 5K by visiting our website at: www.cityofseattle.net/rca/animal/



Furry 5K seeking sponsorships!

If you, your company or someone you know would be interested in sponsoring this event (any level of sponsorship will be considered and appreciated!), please contact Irene Van Nostrand at 206-860-7335.

We hope to see you there!



10 ONE-DAY OLD ABANDONNED PUPPIES SURVIVE THANKS TO DEDICATED FOSTER PARENTS!

Buz Nay and Roger Axline, with Sable, Challis and Sophia. Challis (in the middle) is one of the ten pups that Buz and Roger saved...and later adopted. Staff and volunteers wish to thank these extraordinary foster parents.



www.PetShelterNetwork.com

Visit the website at www.cityofseattle.net/rca/animal/

Did You Know?

COMPANION ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION, THE FIGURES

For every human born, 7 puppies and kittens are born.

One female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years.

One female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in 6 years.

An estimated 6 to 8 million dogs and cats are euthanized in shelters each year. Millions more are abandoned, only to suffer from illness or injury before dying.

In a study of relinquishment of dogs and cats in 12 U.S. animal shelters, 30% of the surrendered cats were unaltered.

It costs U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion each year to round up, house, euthanize and dispose of homeless animals.



They can't let us know that they need our help.

Won't you? Please report animal abuse, neglect and strays.

Help us get these animals away from danger and into the warm and loving homes that they deserve.

Report it today, call (206) 386-4254 ext. 2

Shelter Staff Goes the Extra Mile

When Nicholas arrived at the Shelter, his fur matted from head to toe, he was in less than perfect health. The year-old Shih-Lhasa mix held little trust for anyone on two legs and would bite and snap at their approach. He accepted fresh water and food, but that was about it. Needless to say, Nicholas was not going to be an easy sell to potential adoptive parents, who want to stroke and cuddle their new furry friends.

With the high volume of dogs, cats, and other critters that come through the Shelter, kennel staff are hard-pressed to spend much one-on-one time with the animals; however, Officer Sue Adams had a soft-spot for this little fellow and decided to take him on as her personal project. As time allowed during her busy day, she began spending time in his kennel, talking gently to him and coaxing his trust. Because he usually snapped whenever someone tried to place a collar on

his neck, Sue learned to carry Nicholas when-

ever he needed to be moved and

eventually replaced his

collar with a har-

ness, which seemed

to reduce his dis-

tress. After a few

days, his aggression began to subside and



Nicholas: before

Sue began to think he might find a home after all. She kept her eyes open for the right person, someone who could see past his outward appearance (he was too matted and scared to be groomed) and give him the extra love and time he needed.

One day, Diane

Spaulding came to the Shelter looking for a small dog. Sue introduced her to Nicholas and explained his history and recent improvements. "It wasn't love at first sight," remembers Sue, but Diane saw potential in Nicholas and said she would think about it. The next day she returned to adopt Nicholas, veterinarian and grooming appointments already scheduled. Nicholas was such a mess that he had to be anesthetized to be groomed. The vet found a grass seed which had been growing in his ear and causing him pain.

Nicholas eventually returned to the Shelter, only this time just long enough to say hello and thank you to his old friend Sue. She barely recognized him in his clean, happy, and healthy state. Although still a little shy, Nicholas agreed to pose for a shot with Sue to show others what a difference the caring staff at the Seattle Animal Shelter can make in a little guy's life.



...and after

Mark Your Calendars

Spay Day USA – February 29, 2000. Seattle Animal Shelter's offering free spay or neuters with all adoptions. Anyone visiting the animal shelter that day is eligible for a free spay or neuter certificate redeemable at our spay and neuter clinic.

Adoptathon 2000 – May 6, 2000. Seattle Animal Shelter's annual pet fair and adoption event. Give-aways, raffle, vendors, etc. Come and help us celebrate the animals at the shelter, and while you're here, adopt one!

Pooches In The Park – Tentative dates are every 3rd Sunday in July, August, September. An off-site adoption event at Greenlake. View and adopt shelter dogs, meet with vendors, enjoy the fresh air.

Furry 5K – June 11, 2000. Join us at 9 am at Seward Park for the 1st annual Furry 5K fun-run and one mile walk!

Pets Help People Cope With Stress,

a researcher reported at the recent scientific sessions of the American Heart Association. Looking at 48 stockbrokers, Karen Allen of the State University of New York at Buffalo found that when they had a pet nearby, the increases in blood pressure experienced by the brokers under stress was reduced by about half. "These results are dramatic and significant," Allen said. The brokers, who make more than \$200,000 a year and live alone, were all taking blood pressure medication. "Their jobs are incredibly stressful," Allen said.

The Shelter wishes to thank:

Next To Nature, West Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Lien Animal Clinic for their fundraising support for the Help The Animals Fund!

Foster Homes Needed!

Foster a homeless dog, puppy, cat or kitten! Shelter volunteers raise money for vet care...all you provide is your home and lots of love! **Call (206) 615-0737.**